

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Location: Marriott: 5500 Hilton Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

March 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, Felicia Lee, Willie George Lee, James Little, Angela Machen, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Hoover, Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Jenna Lynn Rice

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by St. Pierre to approve the February 2021 regular meeting minutes
5. Financial Statement Report
Bailey presented to the Board the February 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by W. Lee to approve the February 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
6. Executive Director Report
 - Comite River Diversion Canal Project: Rietschier said that the construction of the Project is currently in the hands of the USACE and DOTD. ARBC remains 1 of 4 partners of the Project. Monthly meetings are held to provide updates and discussion amongst the 4 partners. He provided the status of the construction, real estate, rights-of-way, and utility relocation of the project. Utility relocations and right-of-way acquisitions are going on simultaneously all along the channel. Provided and discussed with the commissioners a "timeline spreadsheet" from the USACE. There will be a lot of work done in 2022. Current estimated completion date is December 2022.
 - Rietschier presented the LA DOTD Report: Utility Relocations and ROW acquisitions are ongoing as follows: 57 out of the 83 parcels acquired, 1 suit is pending, all have been appraised and 24 are under negotiations, utilities continuing to relocate, LA 964-bridge design complete, CMAR LA 67-bridge design at 90% complete, LA 19-bridge design at 90% complete.
 - Hunting Lease(s): 6 hunting leases are coming up for re-bid but ARBC is waiting on a response from the USACE on whether or not to re-bid or terminate the lease(s).
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Thompson to allow the Executive Director to proceed towards the development of a river maintenance manual for the Amite and Comite Rivers. A river maintenance program for the Amite and Comite Rivers should be considered as an integral part of the overall strategy to ameliorate flooding losses in the Basin.
7. ARBC Legal Counsel: None
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business: None
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson second by St. Pierre to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President
Date: 4/20/21

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary